



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

November 7, 1983

Dr. Donald Kennedy  
President  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Don:

This is to suggest that you consider Arnold Thackray as Provost of Stanford University.

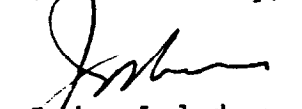
He would, I believe, be an outstanding candidate for that role, although his academic breadth overshadows his explicit managerial experience. He is Professor Arnold Thackray, professor and founding chairman of the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. I have a copy of his C.V., which is enclosed for your use. As he is spending this year at the Behavioral Center you will have ready access both to him, and to other sources of reference.

I have known Dr. Thackray for over ten years, and worked closely with him on the planning and editing of a conference "Toward a Metric of Science" at the Center. This work which is a social, scientific and humanistic perspective on the scientific enterprise, is typical of the unusual intellectual breadth that Dr. Thackray would bring to the provostship. He combines an unusual degree of familiarity with the style and substance of scientific investigation with the experience and perspectives of a historian and social scientist. I also have the deepest affection and admiration for him as an individual and scholar. I have to extrapolate from my personal observation to guess about his effectiveness in academic administration; but whatever signs I can evoke on this score are equally positive.

Dr. Thackray is very deeply involved right now in a national center for the history of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. However, in private conversations with me he has indicated his interest in exploring the possibility of a career change; and I commend him to you as a candidate that you cannot afford to overlook in your quest for the very best. Apart from an 'inside person' already known across Stanford, he could hardly be excelled as one who would be able to relate constructively across the range of disciplines on the campus. His interest in, and competence for, the proposed role would be very closely connected with the perspectives on the organization of science that have been at the center of his own scholarly work.

He is well known within his own specialty; Bob Merton at Columbia also knows him intimately and could I am sure add still more to these perspectives.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg

Encl. - C.V. - *Handwritten*